

**FUSED SILICA HAVING HIGH INTERNAL TRANSMISSION
AND LOW BIREFRINGENCE**

ABSTRACT

Fused silica members having high internal transmission and low birefringence are disclosed. Methods of making such fused silica members are also disclosed. According to the present invention, fused silica members having an internal transmission equal to or greater than 99.65%/cm at 193 nm and having an absolute maximum birefringence along the use axis of less than or equal to 0.75 nm/cm are provided.